NOBODY LOVES BULK... BUT BULK LOVES...

The Collector NO 5

A F.A.C.T zine

THE COLLECTOR

5/6

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CREDITS

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4 Captain America, Spider-Man: Marvel Comics Group
5-6 " " , Hulk: Marvel Comics Group
7 Green Lantern: National Periodical Publications, Inc.
8 Batroc the Leaper: Marvel Comics Group
11-14 Batman & Robin: National Periodical Publications, Inc.
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Editorial

Welcome to Collector #5*6! I feel that this ish is the best yet, but I'm still gonna try to make it even better! First off, let me thank all of you out there who contributed to this issue. Had it not been for your promptness in sending me material, this issue would have probably been delayed until next year, as I thought it would be when I typed the last issue. Anyway, here is TC #5*6; I hope you like it.

I hope Bill Schelly's back cover turned out well. It was sent to me on 11x16, which requires quite a lot of reducing. Anyway, thanks Bill!

I plan to make ready sheets advertising The Collector very soon. Look for them in other zines.

I forgot to mention in "Late Notes" that ready sheets for TC will be distributed with an issue for a small amount of money. If printed on one side, the cost is 25¢. If printed on two sides, the cost is 35¢. Send about 75 at first. I will contact you when I need more. Any extras received will go out with personal correspondence. Please send no more than 150 at one time!

In case you're wondering whether or not to order the "Mad World of Marveldom", I say it is worth your money; unless you're a very choosey fan. I found #1 very delightful. #2 is supposed to be better; which I'm sure it will. By the way, Greg says he's going to use a Spider-Man article I sent him for the 2nd ish. Pick up a copy!

Also, you might try these zines:

FLASH COMICS SPECIAL 40¢ to Marshall Lanz; 10411 Lindberg Ave.; Penn Hills, Pa. 15235 will bring you this unique-size zine which covers the entire history of Flash Comics & all its characters by Raymond Miller entirely. The cover is by pro artist/writer Jim Shooter. All in all, a great zine.

SENSE OF WONDER 35¢ (45¢ flat) to Bill Schelly; 881 Lovingston Dr.; Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216. The 1st two issues were so great, they sold out less than a week after their publication dates! Don't miss #3! This ish has a lot of great features; and over half the ish is photo offset! Don't miss out! order now!

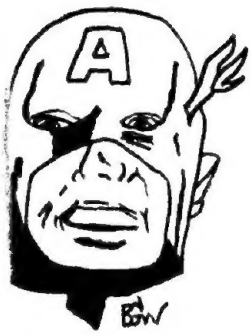
The above zines are F.A.C.T. publications. To join, send $1 (or a 4¢ stamp for information) to: Jim Shooter; 3247 Thornwood Dr.; Bethel Park, Pa. This organization is destined to become the greatest in fandom in no time! All members receive: 8 issues of our newsletter; our quarterly zine, the FANTASY ART COLLECTOR; discounts on all club publications; (including those put out by Marsh Lanz, Bill Wilson, Bill Schelly, Chuck Rogers, & Larry Walczak) and a chance to vote in our FANTASY ART POLLS. Get in on the good stuff! Join now!

By the way, I also forgot to mention that Bill Schelly's cover & his article (in next issue) was donated by the F.A.C.T. CONTRIBUTORS AGENCY co-ordinated by Lar Walczak; 3102 Plum; Erie, Pa.15608 Next ish we'll also have "Story Behind the Phantom"*See ya then?

*by Larry Petroff

—Bill

THE COLLECTOR, Vol. 1; No. 5*6. Published irregularly by Bill Wilson; 1535 Oneida Dr.; Clairton, Pa. 15025. Copies of this issue & also the last, 3*4, are available for 30¢e. Copies of #1 & #2 for 15¢e. ORDER THE NEXT ISSUE, #7, NOW! For 15¢ a copy. No part of this issue can be reprinted without permission of the editor.



late notes

By Bill Wilson

Many super-heroes are coming out in Halloween costumes. From Ben Cooper comes Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, Flash, Captain America, Spidey, Thor, Hulk, and Batgirl costumes. I'm not sure what companies the following were made by, but you can be sure they'll be available. They are Flyman, Phantom, Mandrake, Captain Atom, Doctor Solar, and a few others I can't recall.

*** ***

New super hero games are also making the scene. Some by Hasbro are: Flash, Aquaman, Batman, Superman, & Wonder Woman. From Transogram come: Mighty Comics Super Heroes Game & Mandrake the Magician game. And, from Milton Bradly comes The Amazing Spiderman Game. All look pretty good.

*** ***

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! to fanzine editors. Bob Schoenfeld is planning a new adzine, whose name has yet to be distinguished. It is to be an 8½x11 size, all offset publication averaging 12 pages each issue. The 1st issue is to be sent out with the 16th ish of OTDB (On The Drawing Board). This issue will only be sent to readers of OTDB, and it will go out for free. Here is the good part: ad rates are only $6.00 per full page; $3.00 per half page; $1.50 per fourth page; and two-page spreads will go for $10.00. These ads are to be for fanzines or fan activities (such as cons, etc.) ONLY. Bob has certain qualifications which I'm sorry I can't list. Why not write to him for full details? Write: Bob Schoenfeld; 9516 Minerva; St. Louis, Mo. 63114. ((this adzine will also be sent out to serious fanzine readers if a copy (or sub) of OTDB is sent for. Write Bob for details))

*** ***

AD RATES FOR THE COLLECTOR HAVE GONE DOWN! Now, ad rates are only: 1 full page ad (submit on 8½x11), (DISPLAY) $1.00. ½ page DISPLAY ad, 50¢. ¼ page DISPLAY ad, 25¢. 1 full page CLASSIFIED ad (no art or hand-lettering) 75¢. ½ page CLASSIFIED ad, 40¢. ¼ page CLASSIFIED ad, 20¢. Submit all fraction-of-a-page ads on that same fraction of an 8½x11 sheet of paper. Send ads & money to: TC AD DEPT.; c/o Bill Wilson; 1535 Oneida; Jefferson Boro; Clairton, Pa. 15025. Any ads received after any given deadline will be run in the following issue; without exception. Deadline for TC #7: JANUARY 1st.

*** ***

Oddities -- In All-Flash Comics #6, Sept.-Oct. 1942: On the 2nd page of the first chapter of the four-part novel, Blinky is shown with blond hair. I thought he had red hair! / In World's Finest Comics #7, Fall 1942, on the contents page the Green Arrow story is given as "The Man Who Couldn't Burn"; yet on the splash page of this story, the title is "Wings Of Flame". Also on the 7th page of the same story, GA's cap is yellow & so is Speedy's.

*** ***

THIS COLUMN IS OPEN TO ALL NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SMALL ADS. 4

PERSONALITY ANALYSIS:

BATROC the LEAPER

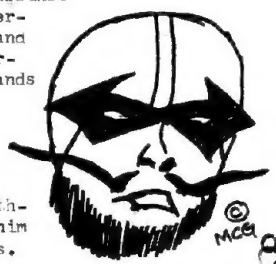
By Greg Kishel
Editor, The Mad World of Marveldom

Batroc! The name explodes over the lips! Batroc, the swashbuckling French mercenary, deadly and dangerous yet suave and flippant! Batroc--surely one of Stan Lee's more unusual creations.

Batroc the Leaper, a master of Savate, the French art of fighting with the feet, was first introduced in Tales of Suspense #75 in the Captain America tale. From the first it was evident that Batroc was something different in the genre of the costumed hero; his irresistable attack, his colorful French epithets, his undeniable courage and obvious conceit--all combined to make a new and different character. His physical appearance--bushy beard, flaring mustachios, ox-like physique, and colorful costume easily caught the eye, while his complex inner motivations soon fascinated the mind of the fan.

It is quite evident that Batroc envisions battle and warfare as some kind of chivalrous game, not as the brutal, merciless, never-ending fight that Captain America knows it to be. He is a man without a true cause; he is a paid mercenary, selling his fighting skill and bravado to the highest bidder. Such a man should hardly have a conscience--yet Batroc certainly has a certain flair that renders him not quite heartless. He certainly regards women in some favor--his remarks to and about the female agent of SHIELD he was sent to follow point this out. He has some sense of honor; he turned against the Hydra agents who doublecrossed him and did not let him have the razzle-dazzle fight he wanted to have. However, he obviously has no scruples about his employers; indeed, he worked for the mysterious group who desired world conquest through use of the newly-found Inferno 42 and also briefly fought for the reborn legions of Hydra! Even though he is a paid mercenary, it appears that he fights for the sheer enjoyment of it!

One wonders exactly what has given him this outlook on life. Since his origin has not been revealed as of this writing, we can not say for sure. However, one might make a few conjectures as to his personality development. Perhaps his family was one of France's last noble lines, still trying to treasure a bit of the old greatness before they were absorbed into the middle class. Perhaps his parents drilled into him the last vestiges of medieval chivalry and the belief that battle was naught more than a game. In any instance, it appears that Batroc could not have had a glimpse of the reality of death on the battlefield, not could he have known of the weariness that comes to those who have fought for a lifetime. Indeed, he revelled in battle so much that he turned against his Hydra employers when they almost destroyed Captain America and thus terminated their battle. His swashbuckling and slightly deluded nature prevented the death of his most formidable foe--and it might one day mean his death at the hands of a more competent employer-turned-foe! This perplexing facet of his personality somehow permits the reader to enjoy his exploits more, even if the effect is only identification with a powerful, swashbuckling man-turned-loose. Yet, Batroc fights on, enjoying every moment! Thus, we have Batroc the Leaper, a man without a past and without a foreseeable future. We can only hope that we will see him again--for he is one of comicdom's most enjoyable hero/villains.



CRIME FIGHTER
(ALIAS BILL BAILEY) by MARK HILLMAN FOR THE COLLECTOR
FOUR: MAY I TAKE A MESSAGE, PLEASE?
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, CHIEF TRENDLE, BUT I FORGOT THE ADDRESS OF THE MAD BAKER!
HERE IT IS! THE ADDRESS IS--
JUST A MINUTE, CHIEF! TO MAKE SURE I DON'T FORGET AGAIN, I'M GONNA WRITE IT DOWN, OK?
NOW, I'M GONNA PUT MY SECRET COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE ON THE TABLE. MY MEMO PAD SHOULD BE IN MY CAPE'S UTILITY POUCH. I THINK IT'S RIGHT--OH DARN! I CAN'T FIND IT! OH WELL, MAYBE IT'S IN--YEAH THAT'S RIGHT! I LEFT IT--NO, MAYBE IT'S IN MY LAB. I'LL CHECK! I'M QUITE SURE/...
CRIME FIGHTER... ARE YOU THERE?
CRASH TINKLE SPLASH CRUNCH
ARE YOU THERE? HELLO?
USING ET COMMUNICATIONS
RE IT IS! HIND THAT NYTRO---
KABOOOOM
HACK HACK! OKAY CHIEF, (GASP) I FOUND SOME PAPER! GIVE ME THAT ★@●x★ BAKER'S ADDRESS BEFORE I PASS OUT AGAIN..!! PANT! COUGH! CHOKE!
OH HUM! I BET (SHUDDER)...THE MAD BAKER IS GETTING PRETTY TIRED OF WAITING FOR C.F. WELL, HE HAS A REASON TO! I CAN'T BLAME HIM!
TO BE CONTINUED! DON'T MISS IT!

(rotated by Ken)

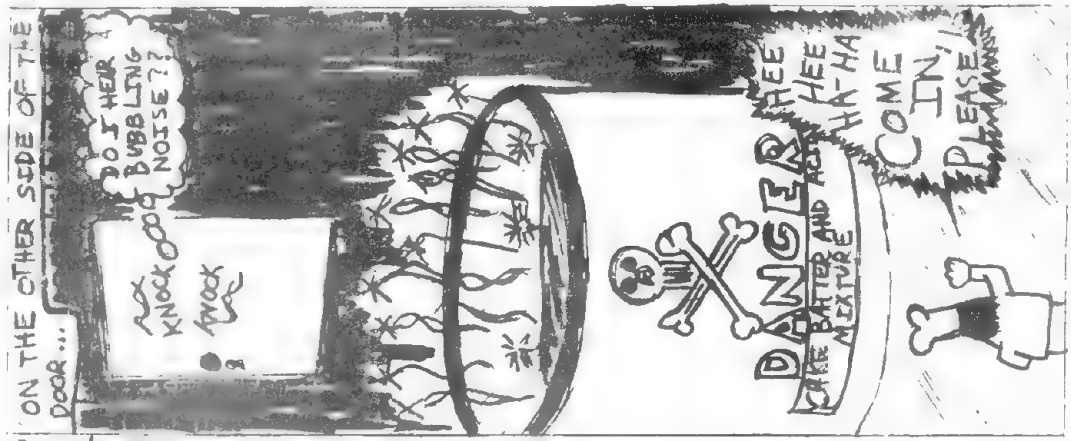
THE ONE & THE ONLY CRIME FIGHTER

ALIAS BILL BAILEY

BY MARK DILLMAN FOR THE COLLECTOR

EPISODE FIVE: MAD BAKER, MAD BAKER, WHERE ART THOU??

REMEMBER— OUR FORGETFUL CRIME FIGHTER WAS TRYING TO FIND SOME PAPER TO WRITE DOWN THE ADDRESS OF THE MAD BAKER.
GIVE ME THE ADDRESS BEFORE I PASS OUT AGAIN, CHIEF! GASP! COUGH!
CF THE ADDRESS IS...
CLUMP!
CF— OH, CF! OH DARN! HE PASSED OUT! (I WISH HE'D PASS AWAY!)
SEVERAL HOURS LATER AT THE GIVEN ADDRESS...
BY GOLLY, I DO BELIEVE THIS BETTER BE THE PLACE! THAT OTHER FELLA WASN'T VERY NICE.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY COSTUME!



I, _____, PROMISE TO BUY THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE COLLECTOR TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO CF BECAUSE I CAN'T STAND THE SUSPENSE

SIGN YOUR NAME HERE ORDER THE NEXT ISSUE.

9-17/9-20

BATMAN and ROBIN

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

PART I

As most Batman fans know, (and if you don't, you should) the Batman made his initial appearance in Detective Comics #27 (May 1939), published by DC, or National Periodical Publications. It featured the story of a young boy, Bruce Wayne, whose parents were killed one night by a petty thief. A few days later, the boy made a vow to avenge his parents' deaths by spending the rest of his life warring on all crimminals. And, as the years passed, Bruce Wayne kept his vow, and prepared himself for his career as a crimefighter. He studies hard, and became a master scientist. He trained his body to physical perfection, until he was finally able to perform amazing athletic feats, never before performed by any man! Then, one murky night while reading the paper and, at the same time trying to think of a disguise, wealthy socialite Bruce Wayne heard the flutter of what sounded like wings! Immediately after reaching the window, he saw a bat. This omen, this creature of the night, inspired Wayne to become a "bat" himself....a "bat-man"! So, thus was born this weird figure of the dark...this avenger of evil...the Batman!

The Boy Wonder Robin, Batman's fighting aide, turned up shortly thereafter. He was Dick Grayson, who had also lost his parents, the "Flying Graysons" a circus aerialist team. Young Grayson then became Bruce Wayne's ward. Together, the two share Wayne manor by day, and [illegible] it not for Gotham City's criminals by night.

After the Batman's popularity in Detective Comics, about one year later in 1940, the Batman got his own comic magazine. After three years of increasing popularity in both Detective and Batman comics, The Dynamic Duo finally made their way across a motion picture screen. The movie, starring Lewis Wilson and [illegible] was in 15 chapters, as was most of the adventure serials at that time. The villain in this case was the diabolical Dr. [illegible] (J. Carroll Naish), a mad scientist who invented a [illegible] to turn people into [illegible]! (cont. next page)

..bove.... new e..y drawings of ... Bl..t...The "New Look" ... the ... ...

BATMAN AND ROBIN, YESTERDAY AND TODAY (cont.) Not only by turning people into zombies, Dr. Daka caused Batman (Lewis Wilson) all sorts of devilish trouble and, as each chapter ended, Batman was seemingly done for. Each cliff-hanging chapter ended with Batman thrown off a roof, crashing an airplane, buried in a mine, eaten by alligators, burned to death, crushed by an elevator, and so on for 15 long chapters.

Strangely enough, the Robin of this serial wasn't featured very much and about the only time he was featured was in a fight scene (then a stunt-man took over) or to rescue Batman, as he did a few times. Also, the Robin of this serial did not say everything with "Holy" in front of it like "Holy Flypaper" or "Holy Narrow Escape" as the Robin (Burt Ward) of the TV series does today.

The 1943 serial put out by Columbia Pictures went along with the Batman and Detective Comics of that time period. For example, in the Batman and Detective Comics of that time, Batman's cowl had long, slender, Bat-ears, and so be it did the Batman of the serial. Also, Bruce Wayne's girl friend, Nurse Linda Page, who made her appearance in either Batman or Detective (not sure which one) also was in the movie with her father, played by Gus Glassmire.

Then in 1949, Batman made another movie bow, in the ADVENTURES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN starring Robert (Batman) Lowery and John (Robin) Duncan. But, that's another story altogether!

To be continued

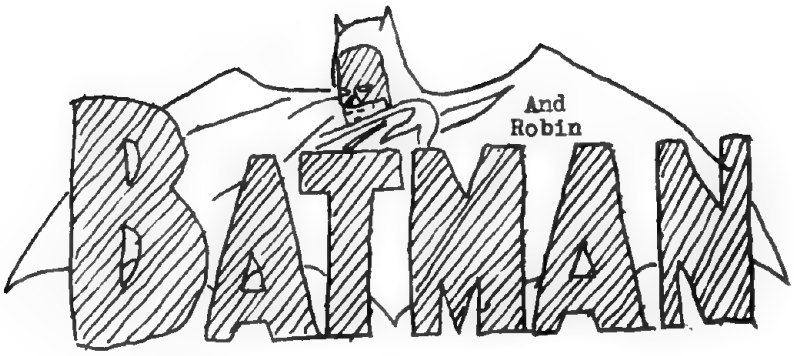
BATMAN AND ROBIN HISTORY

How many of these can YOU answer? Test yourself-Ask your friends!

1. When did BATMAN first appear? In which comic book?
2. When did ROBIN first appear? What was the name of the comic?
3. When did ALFRED first appear?
4. When did COMMISSIONER GORDON first appear?
5. When did the BATMOBILE first appear?
6. The BATSIGNAL?
7. The BATCAVE?
8. When did SUPERMAN & BATMAN first appear togetner? When did they first team up in action togetner-in the same story?
9. In how many other countries is BATMAN published?
10. In how many other languages is BATMAN printed? What are they?

ANSWERS

1. May, 1939, in DETECTIVE COMICS #27
2. April, 1940, in DETECTIVE COMICS #38
3. April-May, 1943, in BATMAN #16
4. first BATMAN story, May, 1939
5. Feb., 1942, in DETECTIVE COMICS #60
6. Feb., 1942, in DETECTIVE COMICS #60
7. Fall, 1940, in BATMAN #3
8. Oct.-Nov., 1941, in ALL-STAR COMICS #7. Aug.-Sept., 1947, ALL-STAR COMICS #36
9. Approximately TWENTY countries!
10. BATMAN is regularly printed in EIGHT different languages... They are; (1) English, (2) Italian, (3) Portuguese, (4) Spanish, (5) Swedish, (6) Arabic, (7) Japanese, (8) Dutch



YESTERDAY AND TODAY
PART II

In the year 1949, the Caped Crusader and Boy Wonder made their second movie bow in the NEW ADVENTURES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN. This time around, Batman was played by Robert Lowery and Robin was played by John Duncan.

This movie, unlike the first, had many things which are familiar to Batman followers of this age. In their crime-fighting attire, Bob Lowery and John Duncan worked deep within the Batcove with their fantastic equipment. Nurse Linda, who was featured in the first serial (was replaced by reporter Vicki Vale. Commissioner Gordon (Lyle Talbot) used the Batsignal to summon the Caped Crusaders to the scene. *Note: since this was an early serial, the Batsignal was not as advanced as the one featured in the currect TV show.

One of the greatest difierences in the first two serials is the variations in The Batman's costume. In the first serial, Batman had long, slender ears, a large belt buckle, a bat design similiar to the TV Batman's, and a mask that came to a point right below his nose. The Lowery-Batman, however, had snort ears on his cowl, a round, strange-looking belt buckle, a strange bat design on his chest, and a mask which barely covered his nose.

Both Robins had about the same costumes, although John Duncan had a much larger "R" on his vest. A most astonishing fact is that both Robin-masks were unlike the comic strip mask of the Boy Wonder. They were exactly the kind of costume masks that were available (and still are for that matter) for 10¢ or 15¢. This is most surprising because after spending all that time preparing The Batman's costume, you would most assuredly think the costume designers would come up with a suitable mask for Batman's young aide and companion!

Now in this age of reviving comic strip heroes, the Caped Crusader and the Boy Wonder bound across the television screen in blazing bat-color! The Batman is played by an ex-cowboy star, Adam West, who is fast becoming a nationwide Favorite. Robin, the Boy Wonder is portrayed Burt Ward, who got the joo immediately after showing some feats of karate and judo.

In the TV series, Batman has fought such baddies as the Riddler, Penguin, Joker, Catwoman, Mr. Freeze (the current Mr. Zero), Bookworm, Puzzler, Zelda the Great, Queen of Diamonds, Fingers, Falseface, Mad Hatter.
(continued on the next page)

At the left.....A dynamic drawing of the Cowled Crusader, Batman.

BATMAN and ROBIN, YESTERDAY and TODAY PART II (cont.) The current TV show BATMAN has many unique oddities. If you will notice every time Batman hits a crook (or vice-versa), an animated "POW!", "ZAP!", or "BIFF!" appears on the television screen. This is to give the viewer the impression the action is appearing in a "Batman" or "Detective" comic. Another oddity is the fact that every time Batman and Robin slide down the bat-poles, the next minute they emerge in the Batcave in full cape and costume. Still another is all the bat-junk Batman has. He has just about everything from super thermal bat-underwear to a great big bat-tub.

Even though the show is a little bit too camp, there are spots which are pretty darn good. The fantastic gadgetry Batman has helps him to capture many a crook. The Batmobile, Batcopter, and Batcycle all help in his war against crime.

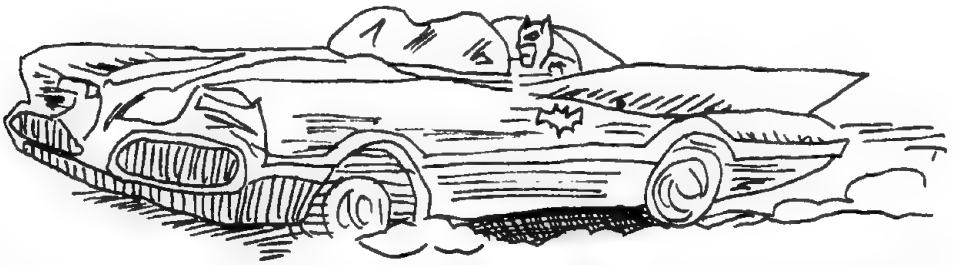
Batman's Batmobile started life as a 1959 Lincoln Continental. This fabulous super car was customized by Dean Jeffries. It cost just about $23,000. The car is equipped with such gadgets as a plexiglass bubble top, an automatic turner-rounder, a radar scope, and some colored rockets that go off if any crook should want to steal the car. It can really fly with its 500-horsepower engine, and it can hit 150 m.p.h. with hardly any effort at all.

In the summer of 1966, the great new BATMAN MOVIE came into magnificent color on the theatre screen. With it came a new idea: A team-up of villains against the Dynamic Duo. In this movie, Riddler (Frank Gorshin), Penguin (Burgess Meredith), Joker (Cesar Romero), and Catwoman (Lee Meriwhether) team up to battle the Dynamic Crimefighters. Henceforth, on the Batman TV show, BM & R have faced the teams of Sandman & Catwoman, Joker & Penguin, and Penguin & Marsha.

As this Batman story closes, you will probably think this really should not be the end. Well, if it will please you, it isn't! It's the end of this article, but only the beginning of a string of others! Stay with us and see what YOU think!

--------The End

(below) a sample drawing of the fabulous TV super car of gadgetry, The Batman's fabulous Batmobile. And who is seated inside? We surely don't have to tell you, do we?



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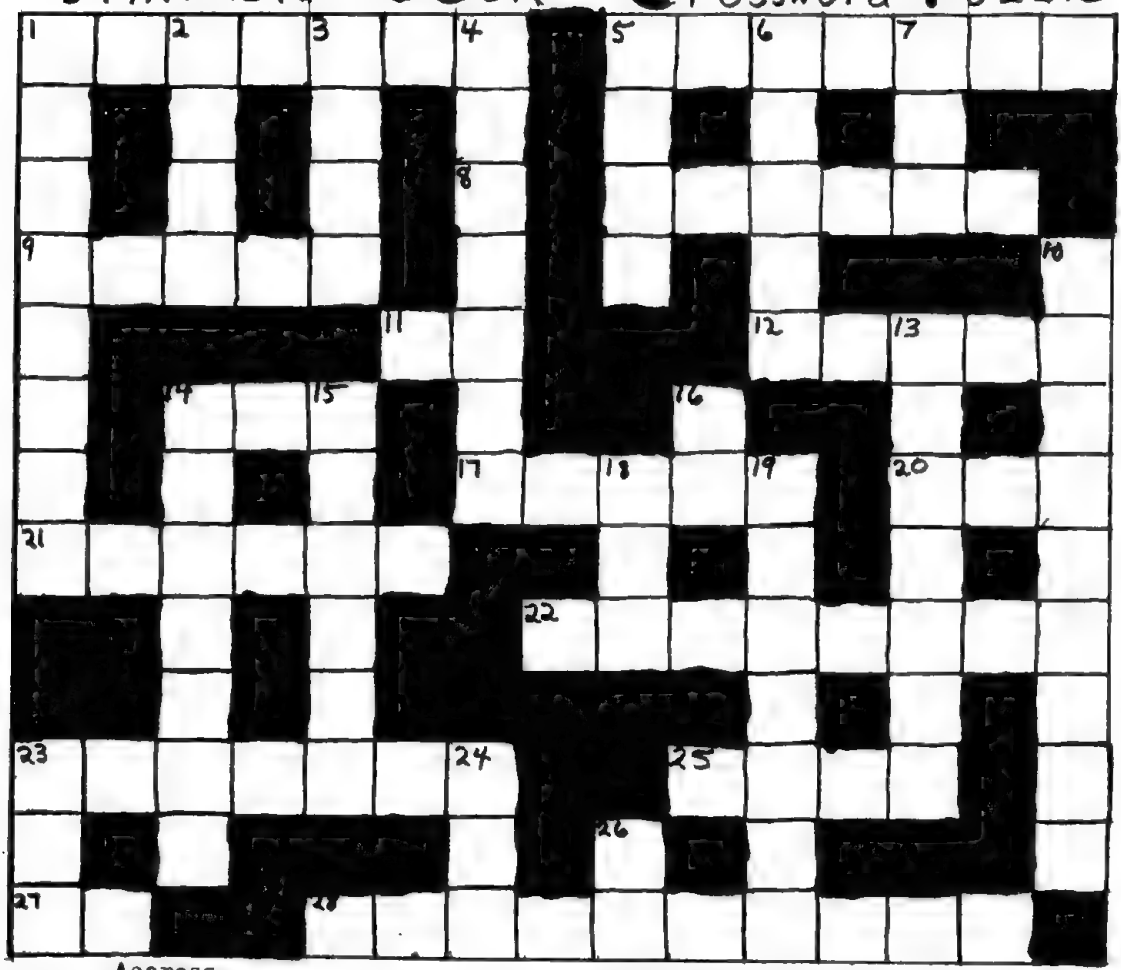
((This article was done many months ago; so some info is out of date. Also, 3 page 8½x11 copies of Steve Johnson's "I BELIEVE!" article, neatly stapled will go for 10¢ per article. I have about 10.Limit: 2 per person. Send to me. --Bill))

All-Flash
NO.6
SEPT.
-OCT.
NOW A
BI-MONTHLY!
A SUPERMAN
DC
PUBLICATION
10¢
ANOTHER FULL-LENGTH
FOUR CHAPTER NOVEL
OF THE FLASH
-FASTEST MAN ALIVE-
AIDED AND ABETTED BY
THE THREE DIMWITS
-MASTERS OF
CONFUSION!

FANTASTIC FOUR Crossword Puzzle



Constructed by Douglas Fratz

Across

1-Black Panther's tribe
5-Aliens in #2
8-Paste-Pot Pete's new name
9-Color of Doc Doom's garment
11-After noon(Abbrev.)
12-Sub-Mariner
14-Underwater vehicle
17-Dick _____,Inker
20-Lower limb
21-Water breathing Inhuman
22-Master of Plants
23-Same as #1
25-Guest-stars in #2[illegible]
27-Homonym for two
28-Foe in #21

DOWN

1-Torch's pal,Wyatt
2-_____ of Sentry
3-Mid day
4-Enemy in #33
5-First name of FF's writer
6-Simek's competiter
7-Last name of #5 ac.
10-Diablo's "pet"
13-FF's first foe
14-Dean of Biology* Generics in #[illegible]
15-Bull _____(#23)
16-Abbreviation for Mister
18-Torch's old foe with powers like Electro
19-Member of evil [illegible] who was Spidey's foe
23-What the [illegible] probably was after #33
24-Guest-star in #16 was _____man.
26-He is,you are, I __

****
****
****
****

LETTERS!

Rod VanSickle
241 W. Fairground St.
Marion, Ohio 43302

Dear Bill,
I just got my copy of Collector #3-4. IT's great. These are a few illoes that I thought you might be able to use. If not, don't worry 'cause it's OK. Keep up the good work on "The Collector" and best wishes.

Yours,
Rod VanSickle
Director of A.C.E.

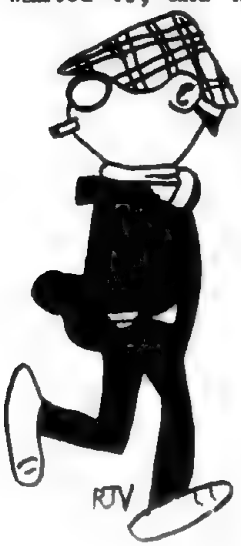
P.S. Thanks for using my "Spidey" illo. If the blue won't show up on offset, please let me know.

((Thanks for the compliment on #3*4, Rod. As you can see, I am using your artwork on this page. By the way, blue does NOT photograph well, but the art below was traced from your original, by me-Ed.))

Rick Howe
217 Burroughs Ave.
Beaufort, S.C. 29902

Dear Bill,
Thanks for sending me COLLECTOR #3,4 (This "double issue" bit is a little hard to figure out.) Also surprised to see my article included, since I had been given no warning. A.C.E. must be pretty efficient. If you are in need of articles (or art) for future issues, please allow me to contribute. ((But of course!-Ed.))

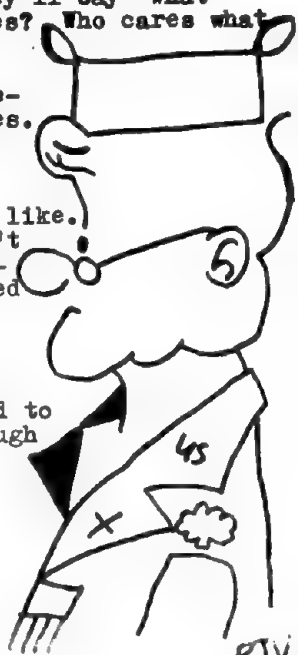
I really enjoyed the write up on Marshall Lanz's fan meet. A lot of fans will probably say they didn't like it because it had a lot of stuff that didn't have anything to do with collecting comics (like they'll say "What difference does it make if Marshall's mother paints pictures? Who cares what the exact words of the phone call were?). But I've never attended any sort of comic convention, though I've always wanted to, and the little details and preperations are something that I can't get out of most fanzines.



I also liked the cover, but I can't figure out why. It's exactly the type of cover I usually denounce.

Bat-Odditys and Crimefighter I didn't like. The odditys reported in B-O (woops) weren't really odditys, just petty mistakes. Crimefighter was too sloppily drawn and lettered to suit my tastes.

Sincerely,
Rick Howe



((Thanks for your opinions, Rick. I'm glad to see you enjoyed the fan meet article, though it could've been better. I'd appreciate more articles and art from you. I'll be glad to have your contributions. --Ed.))

LETTERS ARE CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

LETTERS, CONTINUED--

Fred Hembeck
65 Frank Avenue
Yaphank, N.Y. 11980

Dear Bill:

I've enclosed two pictures of Captain America. Ihope you can use them. ((I am, as you can see in this issue --Ed.))

I'm glad you liked my art. When I read that my art was to appear in a fanzine (photo offset yet) ---wow! It sure is a great feeling the first time! I'm willing to draw and write for THE COLLECTOR. I forgot to tell you I'd like to write the first time I sent in some of my art. Maybe I'll send you a sample article sometime. ((I hope it's sooner than sometime. --Ed.)) Anyway, if you want me to draw something, send me a card and I'll have it to you as fast as possible. I'm better at pinups and reproductions of other artist's work, as my own style isn't polished enough yet.

Back to the Captain America pinups. The one with a lot of shading is an example of the Cap from the forties. It was from CAPTAIN AMERICA #3 '41. The other is an example of the Cap of today and it was from TALES OF SUSPENSE #78 '66. Both were by Jack Kirby.

Some Comic News now. First let me say the COLLECTOR should be called the PROPHET. In COLLECTOR 3*4, there was an article saying Charlton Action Heroes were good, but wouldn't last much longer. I had a subscription to THE PEACEMAKER, THUNDERBOLT, BLUE BEETLE, JUDOMASTER, and CAPTAIN ATOM, and on September 9, 1967 I received a letterfrom Ida Casino stating that Charlton Action Heroes were being discontinued. Enclosed was the money Charlton owed me. To me these five comics had the highest quality in all of comicdom,including Marvel.I guess if you want to sell, you have to be like DC's SCOOTER. It's sad, isn't it?

Sincerely,

Fred Hembeck

P.S. How do you go about printing a fanzine?

((Thanks very much for the art, Fred. As you can see I am using it. You made some interesting points. As to the article, I think Rick Howe did a great job on it, which is why I'm glad to have such a good writer. As to the action heroes, I too had a subscription to all the ones you mentioned, and I feel the same way; but, easy come, easy go. And finally, as to your last question about publishing a zine, there is to little room here for me to explain; though I will send you a letter explaining it. Thanks again. --Ed))

Hopefully, this section will be larger next time around; so stick around. You might find something interesting. --Ed.

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SPECIAL FEATURE! ! !

I BELIEVE by Steve Johnson

Today's question is: what is the purpose of a fanzine? To make your job of decision-making a little easier, I'll limit the possibilities to two. They are a) to inform and b) to entertain.

My hypothesis is that fanzines are made to entertain. To explain this theory, let's take a look at the average contents of a comic fanzine. Amateur strips and text fiction are almost obviously made to entertain; at least, most fen will learn nothing (except that Joe Phan is not a professional writer or artist) from reading "The Democratic Commandos" or "Revenge of the Skull People."

Entertainment is more subtly the purpose in the case of fanzine articles. You'll notice that most fans don't run articles that look like this:

"The first issue of Captain Kozmoz Comics was published in 1943.

"Captain Kozmoz Comics ran for ten bi-monthly issues.

"Paul Standish did all of the covers for Captain Kozmoz Comics.

"Captain Kozmoz Comics contained the adventures of six characters:

Captain Kozmoz
Lieutenant Kozmos
Mary Kozmoz
GI Paul and the Iron Brigade
Secret Agent Q-11
Cliff McClack, Boy Reporter

"Interior art was by ... etc."

for about a page and a half of straight type which contains every available fact about Captain Kozmoz Comics presented in the same outline or index form as above. The reason, I believe, is that fen (except for genuine collectors, a definately rare breed in fandom) aren't basically interested in facts. Facts are fine but only if they are presented in a well-written article. If information was the only thing a fan were interested in, one would see articles on the line of the Captain Kozmoz fragment printed above. The use of such an index form would save space (not to mention reading time) ((Why not read a phone book? --Ed.)) and allow more room for other such information articles. But, as I said in paragraph one (and attempted to prove in the following two paragraphs), I do not believe that the distribution of information is the primary purpose of the average fanzine.** This is why fanzine writers, such as Paul Moslander, who almost as a rule do not include much information in their articles and essays, are popular. In my closing argument, I mention the growing popularity of regularly published opinion columns in comic fanzines. These columns are almost entirely opinion; very few facts are introduced into them. When facts are used it is to stimulate opinionated discussion. Since the object of this is not informing, it has to be entertainment.

Assuming that my entertainment hypothesis is correct, or, assuming that you accept it at least temporarily, the next question is why did I bring up the subject in the first place? The answer (and I'm almost afraid to say it, because it isn't to entertain) is to make fans think -- to make them think about trying to make their stories and fanzines more entertaining. All the excellent reproduction, amateur comic strips and stories, fact filled articles, time, and effort that

---

** The "average fanzine" does not include such things as the DC Index, Index to All Star Comics, etc. These are obviously intended for the collector of comics or information.

went into them mean nothing if they don't entertain the reader. Faneditors, keep this in mind:, don't accept an article for publication just because it is fact-filled; don't publish an amateur comic strip because it is an amateur comic strip. Writers, remember that your duty is to entertain: not merely to get your name printed on the contents page of a fanz ine. Write as if the finished product were being submitted to Stan Lee, Julius Schwartz, or James Warren; write like yo ur life depended on it because your life as a writer does. Keep this in mind.

Ordinarily, th's would be "end of sermon" except for an after thought which is adressed to fen who are not fanzine publishers: remember that the faned produces a zine for the same reason you read it -- to be entertained. Please understand when your favorite zine is not published twelve times per annum. It might be -- and probably is -- possible, but from my exmerience, pubbing a zine just to make a deadline ceases to entertain. And when the fun in fan publishing fails to materialize, the next issue of said fanzine will probably fail to materialize also.

End of Sermon

WISCELLANY

Almost as if by magic, though I'm sure they have been hiding in the woodwork for many years, a cult of Gil Kane worshippers has sprung up in fandom. Gil has always been popular with fen, but over the past few months I8ve noticed what seems to be more praise for him than ever before in personal correspondence, fanzines, and the letter columns of pro comics. Gil is not only being lauded as a great comic artist, but also as an encyclopedia of knowledge about other comic artists and their respective styles. One example of this is in Al Russell's convention report in Men of Mystery #4; Alan leaves no doubt in the reader's mind that Gil knows a lot about the field he works in.

* * *

A new (actually very old) type of fanzine is being widely revived in comic fandom. It goes under the title of "Gab - zine", "letter-zine", or "discussion-zine." The size is usually small, twenty pages or less, and the contents are made up almost entirely of letters, fanzine reviews, and editorials. The first comic zine of this type I know of is Dateline: Comicdom, a zine especially put out for fanzine editors and staffs. Ronn Foss began this zine; today Robert Greene is editor. Comic Comments, a discussion zine currently in it's 12th or 13th issue is the work of two University of Southern Florida students, Wayne DeWald and Gary Brown. Marvin Wolfman of New York has come out with What th..? , another letter zine. All provide opportunities for stimulating debate and discussion. I find them very interesting, much moreso than the average comic zine. If you enjoy lettercolumns and such I advise you to try to get on the mailing lists of some of these letters zines.

* * *

FANZINE EDITOR: ARE YOU A PURIST? Comics and comics fandom is a very interesting hobby; I've been in fandom for almost three years and it retains much of it's original attraction to me. I enjoy reading about them, discussing them, and writing about them. But this mean I read and am interested only in comics? The answer is, almost obviously, no. I am, perhaps, as interested in science-fiction, fantasy, JRR Tolkien, espionage, and international intrigue as much as comics. I'm sure many other comic fans are too, and that's why I advocate the including of these topics in comic fanzines. (I do it in many here-unnamed fanzines.) There's actually no reason why this shouldn't be done (except for a minority's obstinate desire for pure comic fanzines) and there is a very real reason why it should be done. The reason is called science fiction fandom. A science fiction fanzine is

different from a comic fa[illegible] It has [illegible] only articles on SF but o[illegible] thing that intrests it's readers: TV, r[illegible] art, fantasy, comics, morality, hu[illegible]c. (a very big, very inclusive et cetera[illegible]hing (including comics) is fair game fo[illegible]scussion and this is obe reason some comic fans leave comfandom and go over to SF fandom. I've read a number of SF zines and I can see their reasons for making the move. In fact, I think I'm doing it subconsciously. If comic fans want to make their fandom large and long-lived (SF fandom has been a growing fandom for forty years) I'd advise them to follow the lead of SF fanzines. (possibly with the exclusion of religion and politics; some of the discussions can get pretty nasty) This way, comic fans with wide interests will feel fulfilled and remain as full-fledged members of comic fandom. This is why I ask the question: FANZINE EDITOR: ARE YOU A PURIST? (meaning: does your fanzine consist purely of comic oriented articles because you won't consider any others for publication?) If your answer is yes, I advise you to reconsider. If your answer is no, I say hurrah!

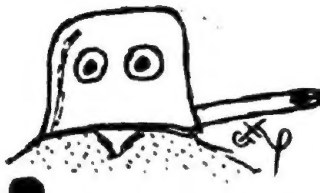
(FINIS)

My address is 1018 N. 31st Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97330. All comments, questions, and miscellania should be sent to me at this address. Please also include comments on this column to the editor in your letter of comment on this issue.

((If I were doing this column I'd have said about the same thing concerning SF-dom. It puts out zines that put issues of Alter-Ego to shame. Most of their zines are published with the attitude of: If I do a

zine it will contain nothing but the highest quality contributions and best layout possible. And: Why publish an amateur comic strip when you can get one better on the stands for 12¢? Remember that the age average of SF fandom is considerably higher than that of comicdom. Many of these zine editors hold high paying jobs so they can put a much larger ammount of money into their zine than could a comic fan. Also, older people have a much better sense of quality and selection than teenagers. Further, they have more experience than many comic fen. This is why I find myself much more attracted to SF oriented material than to comics. I could give a damn about costumed heroes. And face it: If you don't buy comics for the art or reselling, but to read them, you'd better check yourself. For those of you who are starting to steam, take a closer look at both fandoms and see which is better organized, more mature, more enjoyable. In comic fandom little enjoyment is had from comics. Mostly you get away from comics and talk about other things -- latest news about artists changes, the superiority of one artist over another, writing and artist styles, etc. I'd have quit long ago if we would have just sat about and talked about the latest adventure of some such or another booring costumed heroes. I think comic fans should wise up fast. We've already lost many, many fans (including myself I'm afraid) to Heinlein, Tolkein, "Doc" Smith, Burroughs, If Science Fiction, Galaxy, Sword and Sorcery, Norton, Hefner, Bradbury, Wells, Kline, and other more intelligently created publications and books than what is produced by pro comics and rehashed monotonously over and over by comic fans. I only wish and hope to God that someday comic faneds realize there are more interesting things to talk about other than reviews of the latest comics. Perhaps they think that to break this unwritten law of talking only of comics would be desasterous. Far from it. If anything, it would be a very refreshing change from a booring subject that holds little or no interest for many fans. So try it, zine editors! It won't hurt! Now if only one of the pro comics groups would come out with a good SF title -- it might respark my interest along with many others. I have noted Williamson's Flash Gordon and believe it is the best thing around these days. If only there could be more titles like this! --Lamm))

MARVEL MANIACS!



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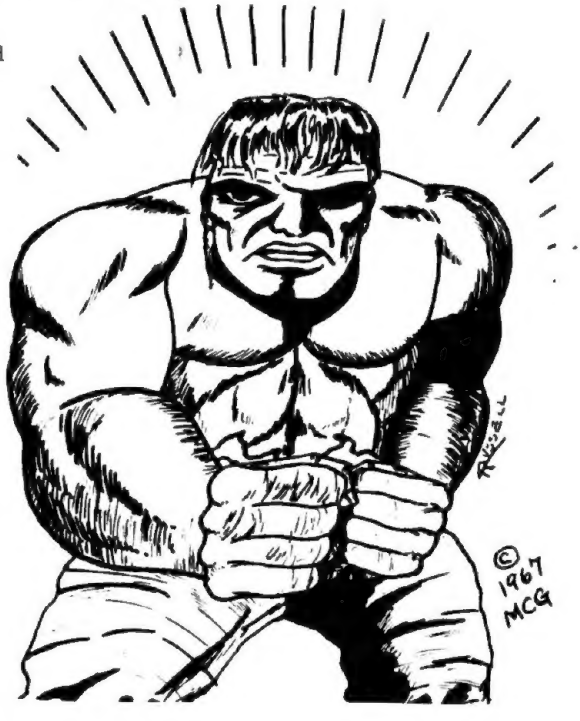
Just a small sample of artwork by our staff artist, Dave Russell!!



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